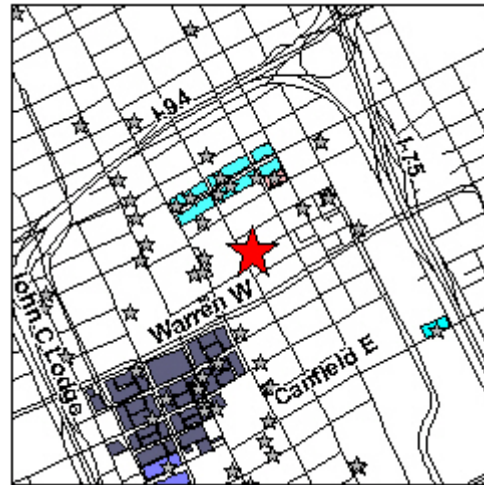


Scarab Club

217 Farnsworth

Local	✓	8/3/79
State		
State Marker		
National	✓	11/10/79



Scarab Club, 1979.

Historic overview:

The Scarab Club, an artists' club, was originally founded about 1909 as the Hopkin Club, in honor of Robert Hopkin, a famous Detroit artist of the late 19th and early 20th century. When Hopkin died later that same year, the name was changed to the Scarab Club. Thereafter, the organization took an increasingly important role in the artistic and cultural life of the community. After nearly twenty years without a specially designed clubhouse, in 1927 the Scarab Club decided to erect the present building, to be constructed by Lancelot Sukert. The only artists' society in Michigan older than the Scarab Club which is still in existence is the society of Women Painters, founded about three years earlier.

The scarab was selected as a symbol and name because of the sacred and regenerative aspects of this beetle, which was revered by the ancient Egyptians. The power of renaissance of the club has been evident on a number of occasions, particularly when the club almost foreclosed on its mortgage in the 1930s. The cultural importance and unique character of the building influenced the bank's decision not to foreclose.

The Scarab Club building has proved its versatility and adaptability to a wide variety of uses, founding the first Michigan Artists Exhibition in 1911, which was later taken over by the Detroit Institute of Arts. It also sponsored grand social events, the most famous being the Scarab Ball during the early 20th century. Detroit greats such as the Fords, Dodges, Booths, and Algers spent much time and money on the selection of their costumes for these lavish masquerade beaux-arts balls. The club now houses a significant collection of works of Michigan artists, and continues to play a vital role in the art and cultural life of the greater Detroit community.

